

Remarks

Claims 25, 29-31, 35-36, and 45-58 are pending. To conform the claims with the election of Group III in the previous paper, claims 26-28 and 32-34 have been canceled; and claims 25, 31, 35, and 36 have been amended. Further, claims 45-58 have been amended to adjust their dependencies in light of the claim cancellations entered in the Preliminary Amendment filed with the instant divisional application. The Applicants apologize for their earlier failure to provide marked-up versions of the pending claims.

None of the claim amendments has been made to overcome a rejection based on 35 USC § 102, 35 USC § 103 or 35 USC § 112. Rather, the amendments to the claims are being made solely to expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the application. Therefore, no new matter has been added. The Applicants expressly reserve the right to further prosecute the same or similar claims in subsequent patent applications claiming the benefit of priority to the instant application. 35 USC §§ 120-121.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 25-36 and 45-58 as reading upon non-elected subject matter. Accordingly, claims 25, 31, 35, and 36 have been amended to conform their scope with the election of Group III made in the previous paper. Further, claims 26-28 and 32-34 have been canceled because the aforementioned amendments to claims 25, 31, 35, and 36 rendered redundant claims 26-28 and 32-34. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the Examiner's objections to claims 25, 29-31, 35-36 and 45-58.

The Examiner objected to claims 45-58 as depending on canceled claims. Accordingly, claims 45-58 have been amended to depend only on pending independent claim 25. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the Examiner's objections to claims 45-58.

Fees

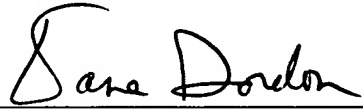
The Applicants believe that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this Response. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due in connection with the filing of this Response to our Deposit Account, No. 06-1448.

Conclusion

The Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' Attorney would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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